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REVIEW OF THE
Memoirs of the Life of Granville Sharp.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71.)

“GRANVILLE SHARP had now attained his forty-first year.” He stood illustrious before his nation and the world as the masterly expounder of the first principles of natural and English law, the persevering and disinterested defender of human rights. He had connected himself too closely with the circumstances of his age, to allow of his retirement from public observation; and the resignation of his office, only multiplied his opportunities and motives for humane and philanthropic exertion. His acquaintance with Dr. Franklin has been mentioned. His correspondence with Gen. Oglethorpe, now deserves our attention.

The durability and value of fame, are something more than its splendour. Immortal renown is the legitimate inheritance of virtue. The erratic star glares upon us with evanescent light, the regular sun shines purely, majestically, but gloriously forever. Lawless ambition may astonish, and its terrible exploits be deeply engraven on the memory of mankind, but noble achievements grow brighter by age, are cherished in the heart's best affec-

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tions, and gather around them fresh honours by stimulating to actions which elevate the character and augment the happiness of our race. Examples of vice may be remembered as warnings in the days of our imperfection, but they are recollected of necessity, their oblivion is inevitable under the reign of virtue, while deeds of eminent benevolence will gain in celebrity, as men grow in wisdom, and be more delightfully recollected, as their utility becomes more manifest in the improvement of the world.

The character of general Oglethorpe is, if we mistake not, one which requires only to be understood to be admired. To his fame, as well as to that of Granville Sharp, time will give brightness. He was born in the county of Surry, England, in 1698, and educated for the army under the patronage of the dukes of Argyle and Marlborough. In 1737, he was appointed colonel of a regiment, with the rank of general and commander in chief over all his majesty's forces in Georgia and South Carolina. He is said to have commanded the first regular force ever stationed in America. In 1745, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general, and in 1747, to that of major general in the British Army. About this time he was elected member of parliament, and here proposed and promoted many measures of great humanity and public benefit. Moved with compassion for the prisoners "confined in gaols for debt," he expressed his opinion that their transfer to some of the American colonies, might prove beneficial to themselves and the nation. In 1732, he was appointed governor of Georgia, and during the ten succeeding years, crossed the ocean six times, without fee or reward, to promote the settlement and interests of that province. *Every possible exertion was made by him to prevent the introduction of Slavery into the Colony.*

"At the commencement of the American revolution, Gen. Oglethorpe being the senior officer of Sir William Howe, had the prior offer of the command of the forces to subdue the Colonies." His integrity on this occasion was remarkable. "He agreed to accept the appointment, on condition the ministry would authorize him to *assure the Colonies that justice would be done to them.*" He declared that *"he knew the people of America well; that they never would be subdued by arms, but their obedience would ever be secured by doing them justice."* A man of such principles was but ill prepared to prosecute the designs of the British govern-

ment, and he was, therefore, agreeably to his request, permitted to remain at home.

Gen. Oglethorpe passed his last days at Grantham hall, Essex, where he died in 1785, in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

“His moderation and the simplicity of his whole deportment, his prudence, virtue, delight in doing good, real regard to merit, unaffected sincerity in all his actions, great knowledge and experience, generous care and concern for his fellow creatures, his mercy and benevolence, will admit of but few parallels in the history of human life.

“More can be said of general Oglethorpe, than of the subject of any other prince in Europe : he founded the province of Georgia in America; he lived to see it flourish and become of consequence to the commerce of Great Britain; he saw it in a state of resistance, and at length independent of the mother country; and of great political importance in one quarter of the globe.” *Vide M^r Call's history of Georgia.*

Such was the individual with whom Granville Sharp now commenced a correspondence. We give the following extract from Gen. Oglethorpe's first letter.

TO GRANVILLE SHARP, ESQ.

“SIR,

“Being at Woolston Hall, Dr. Scott's house, he showed me your “law of Retribution.” I was greatly rejoiced to find, that so laborious and learned a man, had appeared a champion for the rights of mankind, against avarice, extortion and inhumanity; that you had with an heroic courage, dared to press home on an infidel luxurious world the dreadful threats of the prophets.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,
JAMES OGLETHORPE.”

To this letter Granville Sharp made the following reply :

“WICKEN PARK,
27th September, 1776.

“SIR,

“Though my poor attempts to warn the public of approaching evils, should prove too weak to effect such a timely reformation as may be necessary to avert the judgments against national injustice and inhumanity, yet it is no small recompence and satisfaction for my labour, (next to the sense of having thereby discharged my duty to my country) to find that my endeavours are approved by sincere lovers of justice, whose influence and example, in promoting the public good, at every opportunity, I am sure will not be wanting.

Three other tracts were intended to precede that which you have mention

ed, on the law of Retribution, although the superior diligence of the printer who undertook it, caused it to be the first distributed amongst my friends—Of these* and also of some former tracts, I request your acceptance, as a small token of my sincere esteem for a gentleman who professes, (though otherwise unknown to me) so great a regard for justice, humanity and national reformation. If you should find any thing in those several tracts (respecting the dignity of human nature, and the natural rights of mankind) which seems to want further confirmation or explanation, I must request you to suspend your judgment, till you receive two which are now in the press—viz: one on the *Law of nature and principles of action* in men; and the other on the *case of Saul*. These contain the principal grounds and foundation of human rights, (asserted in the former works) and will demonstrate, I trust, beyond all possibility of reply, the extreme danger of infringing them, by pointing out the dangerous state of probation in which every man is placed in this life, and the absolute necessity that is laid upon us all (on account of man's hereditary knowledge of good and evil) to maintain God's eternal laws of *justice* and *mutual benevolence*.

With great esteem," &c.

Extracts from two other letters from this correspondence, merit, we think, insertion in our work, as the former contains some valuable anecdotes of a distinguished man with whom the public are too little acquainted, and the latter beautifully exhibits the ingenuousness and humility of the subject of these memoirs.

GENERAL OGLETHORPE TO GRANVILLE SHARP.

"CRANHAM HALL,

October 13, 1776.

*SIR,

"With great pleasure I receive the favor of yours of the 27th September, and since, several excellent tracts of your composing, which I have read with much satisfaction, as they all point to the great end of life—the honour of God and love of our neighbour.

As I have not the happiness of being known to you, it is necessary to tell you that I am the person you will find mentioned in Harris' collections (the last edition in two vol.) and Smollett's in Rolt. and all the histories of that time.

My friends and I, settled the Colony of Georgia, and by charter were established to make laws, &c. *We determined not to suffer Slavery there; but the Slave merchants, and their adherents, occasioned us not only much trouble, but at last got the then government to favor them. We would not suffer Slavery to be authorized under our authority:* The goverment, finding the

* The just limitation of Slavery by the laws of God—2. The law of passive obedience—3. The law of liberty.

trustees resolved firmly not to concur with what they thought unjust, took away the charter by which no law could be passed without our consent.*

* It is an interesting fact, that the most worthy and industrious settlers in Georgia, were entirely opposed to the introduction of slavery into the Colony. The indulgences granted to the Carolinians, increased the discontent of those "who having been not only useless members, but burthensome to society at home, determined to be equally so abroad, and as they generally, had nothing to lose, they were resolved obstinately to persist in their demands, until their wishes were satisfied or the Colony ruined. Their idleness and dissipation prevailed to such a formidable degree, that the people were on the verge of starvation. The object of the trustees was to compel them to labor, and their object was to live without labour." The trustees required nothing from the people, but what they had bound themselves by covenant to perform. "The Germans and Highlanders, having been brought up in habits of industry, yielded to a fulfilment of their contracts for the public good, and under a full confidence that the trustees would in due time extend to them such privileges as would eventually lead to their interest and happiness."

From the petitions of the Highlanders, we give the following extract :

To his Excellency James Oglethorpe.

We are informed that our neighbors of Savannah, have petitioned your Excellency for the liberty of having slaves: We hope and earnestly intreat that before such proposals are hearkened to, your Excellency will consider our situation, and of what dangerous and bad consequences, such liberty would be to us for many reasons.

First, The nearness of the Spaniards, who have proclaimed freedom to all slaves, who run away from their masters, makes it impossible for us to keep them without more labor in watching, than we would be at to do their work.

Second, We are laborious, and know a white man may be, by a year more usefully employed than a negro.

Third, We are not rich, and becoming debtors for slaves, in case of their running away, or dying, would inevitably ruin the poor master and he become a greater slave to the negro merchant, than the slave he bought could be to him.

Fourth, It would oblige us to keep a guard of duty at least as severe as when we expected a daily invasion; and if that were the case how miserable would it be for us and our wives and children, an enemy without, and a more dangerous one in our bosom.

The *fifth* objection stated, was the *moral wrong* of the proposed measure.

From the memorial of the Germans we give the following extract.

"Though it is here a hotter climate than our native country is, yet not so extremely hot as we were told on the first time of our arrival; but since we have now been used to the country, we find it tolerable, and for working people convenient, setting themselves to work early in the morning, till ten o'clock, and in the afternoon, from three to sunset; and having business at

As you will find me in the history of those times, you will find me also in the present list of the army; and when you come to town, I shall be very glad to see you in Grosvenor street, where I live in London, as I do *here* in the country.

You mention an argument urged by Hume, that the *Africans were incapable of liberty*, and that no man capable of government was ever produced by Africa. What a historian! He must never have heard of Shishak, the great Sesostris, of Hannibal, or of Tir haka, king of Ethiopia, whose very name frightened the mighty Assyrian monarch, (2 Kings, XIX. 9.) Is it possible, he never should have seen Herodotus, where the mighty works of the Pyramids, remaining to this day, are mentioned; and in ΘΑΛΕΙΑ the answer of the king of Ethiopia to Cambyses. In Leo, the African's geographical description of Africa, he would have found, that Africa had produced races of heroes."

MR. SHARP'S REPLY.

"To his Excellency James Ogleshorpe.

"HONOURED SIR,

"I am not only truly sensible of the honor you have done me in condescending to make yourself known to me, but be assured, sir, that ever since I read the account of the settlers of Georgia in Harris' collection, to which you referred me, I have entertained a much greater esteem for you, than I can find words to express.

The noble principles on which that undertaking was at first set on foot, and your own truly disinterested and prudent conduct in establishing, as well as your brave and successful behaviour in defending it, form altogether a most instructive and exemplary piece of history for the imitation of the present and future ages; and as example and practice, are infinitely superior to theory and precepts, you certainly enjoy the heartfelt satisfaction, of having really practised and set forth in a conspicuous active life, those disinterested principles and duties, which, in my humble station, I have only been able to re-

home, we do it in our huts and houses, in the middle of the day, 'till the greatest heat is over. People in Germany are hindered by frost and snow in the winter, from doing any work in the fields and vineyards; but we have this preference, to do the most and heaviest work at such a time, preparing the ground sufficiently for planting in the spring. We were told by several people, after our arrival, that it proves quite impossible and dangerous, for white people to plant and manufacture rice being a work for negroes, *but having experience to the contrary*, we laugh at such talking, seeing, that several people of us, have had in last harvest, a greater crop than they wanted for their own consumption.

We humbly beseech the honorable trustees not to allow it, that any negro might be brought to our place or in our neighbourhood, knowing by experience, that our fields and gardens will always be robbed by them, and white persons be put in danger of life because of them, besides other great inconveniences."—*Vide History of Georgia.*

commend in theory. I shall certainly avail myself of the liberty of waiting upon you, as soon as I know that you are returned to town, and remain, with the greatest esteem and respect,

GRANVILLE SHARP."

This correspondence led to the formation of a friendship between these two eminent promoters of justice and virtue which terminated only with life. Gen. Oglethorpe was the strenuous defender of the rights of seamen, and now published his "Sailor's Advocate" with an introduction by Mr. Sharp, which passed thro' numerous editions. The latter, had already considered the subject of impressment, and was convinced of its iniquity, because it implied *oppression and respect of persons* and was *malum in se, unjust*. *Cessa regnare, si non vis judicare*, was in his opinion a sound maxim grounded upon another; that liberty is the *soul*, and the laws the *body* of the commonwealth. "Our parliament, said he, can have no more right to make a law to enslave Englishmen, than any individual has to deprive himself of life, because that would amount to the crime of *felo de se* in the state."

In consequence of his generous exertions in behalf of the oppressed, Mr. Sharp was frequently resorted to, by those who found themselves in distress, and without the means of legal defence. During the preparations for war with the American Colonies, measures were adopted for the impressment of seamen, and many were seized under warrants from the admiralty. Some of these invoked the aid of Granville Sharp. With his usual ardour and diligence, he pursued his researches into the laws on this subject, and finally in the case of Millachip, for whom a writ of Habeas Corpus had been obtained, brought the question before Lord Mansfield. The attorney general cited the warrant of the lords of the admiralty to justify impressment. But Lord Mansfield waived the discussion of the question of right, and only declared the return to the writ of Habeas Corpus improper, so that the man was at liberty.*

* The minutes of the proceedings, in the case of Millachip, were closed by the following memorandum, "Cause stands over, to give the attorney general time to consider of his argument upon what was thrown out by the Court." On this, Mr. Sharp observes: Is it not manifest, from the repeated declarations of the chief justice, that the *cause itself is thrown out by the Court*, and that the man was *instantly* set at liberty, when the Court declared the return *not sufficient to have him remanded*. The personal rights of this man are sacred and inestimable, and are not to be set up as a butt to exercise sophistry. Be-

It occasioned much regret to Granville Sharp, that the cause was afterwards argued on both sides, in reference to the peculiar exemption of Millachip as a citizen of London, and, therefore, did not allow of the discussion of the great question of the legality or illegality of impressments. While engaged in these benevolent efforts for seamen, Mr. Sharp visited Dr. Johnson, and heard his impressive arguments in opposition to his opinions. "Mr. Sharp's strength (says Mr. Hoare,) did not lie in debate, and he felt, severely, the power of Dr. Johnson's reasoning." An account of this interview is recorded in his manuscript.

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"I have been told, that it is the common lot of the poor and laborious part of mankind, to endure hardships and inconveniences; that the pressing and forcing them into service is no injustice, nor illegality, being nothing more than one necessary contingent circumstance of the low condition of life, in which they were bred; and that the *cruelty*, rather rests with persons, who like *metake* notice of the grievances, and render them unhappy, by persuading them that they are so. All this has been urged to me, with such plausible sophistry, and important self sufficiency of the speaker, as if he supposed that the mere sound of words was capable of altering the nature of things; as if there were no distinction between good and evil; but the circumstances of persons or occasions might render it expedient or necessary to practice the one as well as the other. Thus the tyrant's plea of necessity is made to remove all bounds of law, morality, and common right! But woe be to them that call evil good and good evil! Happy would it be for this nation, and the eternal souls of such as mislead it, if the feelings of the seamen, and other laborious poor, had no other stimulation, than the recital of their unhappy case by such poor advocates as myself! Are they not surely of the same blood: have they not the same natural knowledge of good and evil to discern, and the same feelings, to be sensible of injuries, as those who cause their sufferings? It is to prevent and dissuade from acts of violence and injustice, but surely not to aggravate the sense of them, that such circumstances are noticed. Nay, it is charity towards the oppressors, as well as the oppressed, to endeavour to convince them of their error: and how can this be done but by speaking of the oppression. *It is even a crime to be silent on such occasions*; for the scriptures command, open thy mouth; judge righteously and plead the cause of the poor and needy, (Prov. XXXI. 9.) Nay it is the cause of God, who hath declared: For the oppressor of the poor reproacheth his Maker, but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor. (Prov. XIV. 31.)"

sides, it is a maxim in the law, that the cause of liberty is to be favoured before all other causes: *Humana natura in libertatis causa, favorem semper magis quam in aliis causis deprecatur*: and, *Anglica jura in omni causa libertati dant favorem*.—*Fortescue*.

In a letter to a friend, about the same time, he writes—

"But we see, says an advocate for power, that it (impressment) *does not discourage*; men are still bred up to a sea faring life, and in times of peace multitudes are allowed by the merchant's service to choose that condition, whereby they are subject to the impress. True it is, that the necessities of poor labouring men, compel them to earn their bread in any way that they can get it; and when a war is over, the discouragement of pressing is in a great measure forgot, and the number of seamen of course is again increased. But this makes no difference with respect to the injustice and illegality of the oppression itself; for if the poor man is not protected in an honest calling (which is his estate and most valuable dependence) as well as the rich man in his estate, the law or rather the administrators of it are unjust and partial, having respect of persons, which the law itself abhors, and which religion strictly forbids. And therefore, if we can form any precise definition of iniquity, this partiality of which I complain, comes fairly within the meaning of that term."

The principles of christian virtue are simple, consistent, and comprehensive. On all great moral questions there will be found among those who adopt them in their full extent, unity of sentiment, and in the discharge of social and civil duties, the same practice. Abstract doctrines concerning human rights and obligations are frequently condemned, as inapplicable to the real and various character, circumstances and necessities of mankind; but in truth, without clear and just views of certain moral principles immutable as our nature and important as our destiny, we are entirely unprepared to give judgment concerning any one leading interest of society, or to fulfil one of its responsible duties. The principles upon which reposed the faith of Sharp and Oglethorpe, are the basis of the order and happiness of the world. These men spoke out with prophetic voice, against crime in high places, and by the sad experience of more than one nation, have the truths to which they paid homage, been proved of paramount importance to mankind. Their opinions were concurrent, for they both bowed to the laws of God. What calamities had been prevented, what glory had covered England, had she listened to their admonitions: But her injustice to her seamen has driven them from her shores, and weakened their energy—her sanction of the slave trade produced evils surpassing description—and her unjust war, with her American Colonies, robbed her crown of one of its brightest gems.

(To be Continued.)

A MEMOIR
Of the Exertions and Sufferings of the
American Colonists,

CONNECTED WITH THE OCCUPATION OF CAPE MONTSERADO :
EMBRACING THE PARTICULAR HISTORY OF THE
COLONY OF LIBERIA FROM DECEMBER
1821 TO 1823.—By *J. Ashmun.*

Compiled from the Authentic Records of the Colony.

NOTHING among men is great or small, but relatively. Human pride seldom indeed remembers this axiom in the estimate it forms of the moral worth of virtuous actions. And experience proves that the heart itself too easily obeys the absurd prejudice; withholding the tribute of its sensibilities from the loveliest examples of unobtrusive, solitary merit, and lavishing it with a forced prodigality on such instances as in some way connect with themselves the accidental, not to say doubtful, circumstance of a mere physical magnificence. Separate the pursuits of mankind from the considerations of morality, and their distinctions of great and small, will be seen to be as arbitrary and capricious as the fancies and habits of individuals.

I have seen the well-repressed smile of conscious derision cautiously sporting itself on the composed features of a Senator of one of the small republics of America, while amusing his leisure with the little intrigues of a borough election. I saw something like a reflection of the same playful sentiment radiating from the relaxed brow of a minister of the national council, while attending to a grave argument of the same Senator on a contested point of county jurisdiction. The delegate who figures in an European Congress, might affect to regard as cheap and rude the politics of the entire western world. And the most magnificent political manœuvres of modern times, what are they, if magnitude is made the scale of greatness, in comparison with the profound and awful policy of Rome—beginning in the darkness of a remote antiquity, and holding its even and mighty course over the ruins of thirty gene-

rations, unchanged even by domestic revolutions, until its proud consummation was, under the Cæsars, triumphantly developed in the reduction of the world?

The truth is, that the intrinsic grandeur of all human actions consists wholly in their moral character; and it is the share which the virtuous heart takes in those actions, that after all, is the just measure of their greatness. It is this principle of estimation alone, which puts it in the power of the humblest part of mankind to equal in real magnanimity of character, and absolute grandeur of exploit, the achievements, and the moral elevation, of the proudest. It is this scale of distribution, by which the benevolent Father of mankind, divides to all the race, the little stock of their joys and sorrows.—I will add, too, that the first secret of a virtuous mind is folded up in its wisdom to discern, and disposition to applaud, amidst those gilded heaps of splendid trifles which continually solicit the admiration of the world, the genuine traits of moral greatness in their least imposing forms.

It is in the beautiful light of a theory so just, and at the same time so gratifying to the benevolent heart, that many of the readers of the following memoir will delight to contemplate the genuine actings of heroic virtue; of which the theatre was too remote from the observation of the world, and the actors too little practised in the arts of ostentation, to expose their motives to the suspicion of vanity, or admit of the agency of the ordinary stimulants of great achievements.

To arrive at the remote spot on which these humble scenes were transacted, I must tax the reader's imagination with a flight across the Atlantic ocean, which, by limiting the circle of his ordinary avocations, may hitherto have bounded the range of his liveliest sensibilities. I must send it far from the polished and populous districts of European, and Asian refinement—beyond the habitations of civilized man—to the least frequented recess of a coast almost the least frequented on the globe. On this spot, a handful of coloured emigrants from the United States, in whose bosoms the examples of history had never kindled the fire of emulation—whose only philosophy had been acquired from a series of dispiriting conflicts with every form of physical and moral adversity—and whose prospects, at that moment, were as dark and appalling, as the memory of the past was embittered—ejected from the land of their birth,—hostility, famine and destruction mena-

cing them in that of their adoption: such is the humble character of the individuals, and equally humble is the scenery and the action, which are to enliven the incidents of this narrative.

The facts are wholly drawn from the authentic records of Liberia; and doubtless deserve the connected exposition which is intended here to be presented, as forming the only minute history yet published, of the first and most interesting period of that promising Colony. The compiler having enjoyed the humble honour of directing the little phalanx of moral energies so advantageously, and through the sustaining providence of Heaven, so triumphantly displayed, in the trying scenes of 1822, hesitates not to acknowledge that to the performance of this little task, he is equally prompted by a sentiment of grateful pride, and the more exacting obligations of a serious duty. The circumstances, some of them not of the most pleasant nature, which give its principal strength to this latter motive, it is entirely needless farther to advert to; and to most of his readers, the writer owes an apology even for this slight digression.

The map which accompanies this statement, is wholly constructed from surveys of which the events detailed in it furnished the compiler with the occasion; and is believed to be quite sufficient to elucidate all the local references.

The territory on which the first settlement of the colonists of Liberia has been made, may be seen to present the form of a narrow tongue, of twelve leagues' extent, detached from the main land, except by a narrow Isthmus, formed by the approach of the head waters of the Montserado and Junk rivers. The northwestern termination of this linear tract of country is cape Montserado, which, towards its extremity, rises to a promontory sufficiently majestic to present a bold distinction from the uniform level of the coast. Towards the south-east it is terminated by the mouth of the Junk river. Centrally, this peninsula is attached to the main land by the Isthmus just designated; so as to represent the general form of a scale-beam, of which, the point of attachment answers to the pivot,—and measured directly over from the banks of the Junk, or Montserado river, to the ocean, its width in no part exceeds one league; and in many places is narrowed down to half that distance.

The present town of Monrovia is situated on the inland side of this peninsula, forms the S. W. bank of the river Montserado, about

two miles within the extremity of the cape. The original settlement approached within 150 yards of the water; and occupied the highest part of the spinal ridge, which traverses a large part of the peninsula, and rises at this place to about 75 feet. A dense and lofty forest of timber-trees, entangled with vines and brush-wood, so as to be nearly impracticable by any but the feet of savages, and savage beasts, formed the majestic covering of a large proportion of this tract, when the territory was bargained for by the agents of the American Colonization Society, in December, 1821.

Opposite to the town and near the mouth of the Montserado river, are two small islands, containing together, less than three acres of ground. The largest of these islands is nearly covered with houses built in the native style, and occupied by a family of several hundred domestic slaves, formerly the property of an English factor, but now held, in a state of qualified vassalage, very common in Africa, by a black man to whom the right of the original owner has devolved since his return to Europe. Many of this family, including the old patriarch at their head, are strangers on this part of the coast, have no participation in the politics of their neighbours, and are frequently the objects of their jealousy,—and till restrained by the protection of the American Colony,—of their oppression.

The tribes of the neighbourhood are, 1st, the DEYS; who inhabit the coast from 25 miles to the northward of Montserado, to the mouth of the Junk, about 36 miles to the southeastward. Contiguous to this nation, and next interior, are, 2dly, the QUEAHS, a small and quiet people, whose country lies to the E. of cape Montserado; and, 3dly, the GURRAHS, a much more numerous and toilsome race of men occupying the country to the northward of the upper parts of the St. Paul river. Still further interior is the formidable and warlike nation of the CONDOES, whose name alone is the terror of all their maritime neighbours.

It is proper, in this place, to advert to a small hamlet placed on the beach one mile to the northward of the settlement, belonging to a people entirely distinct in origin, language and character, from all their neighbours. These are the Kroomen, well known by foreigners visiting the coast, as the watermen and pilots of the country. They originate from a populous maritime tribe, whose country is Settra-Kroo, near cape Palmas. The custom of their tribe obliges all, except the old, the princes of the blood, and a few others, to disperse to different parts of the coast, and form them-

selves in small towns near every road-stead and station frequented by trading vessels; where they often remain, unless summoned home to assist on some grand national occasion, from two to six, and even ten years, according to their success in accumulating a little inventory of valuables, with which their pride is satisfied to return to their friends and country. These people are decidedly the most active, enterprising, intelligent and laborious in this part of Africa; and in the size, strength and fine muscular proportions of their persons, have few superiors, as a nation, in the world. The number of families belonging to their settlement near the mouth of the Montserado, scarcely exceeds a dozen, and may comprehend fifty individuals.

The purchase of the Montserado territory was effected in December, of 1821; of which transaction, a particular account was published by the Colonization Society, a few months afterwards. The occupation of the country by as many of the dispersed American Emigrants as could be collected, early in the following year, was also announced by Dr. Ayres, on his return to the United States, the same season; and noticed in the report of the Society, for 1823.

Two small schooners belonging to the Colony were employed in the transportation of the settlers in January, 1822; in which service they continued to be occasionally occupied, until the latter part of the following May. But in this period a variety of unpleasant indications of the hostile temper of the Dey people, fully demonstrating the insincerity of their engagements in relation to the lands, were but too distinctly afforded the settlers.

On the arrival of the first division, consisting chiefly of the single men, the natives positively, and with menaces of violence, forbade their landing. The smallest of the two Islands at the mouth of the Montserado, had been obtained by special purchase, of John S. Mill,* at that time the occupant and proprietor; on which the people and property were safely debarked, without any actual opposition. But the endeavours of the agent, either by the decision

* Mr. Mill, an African by birth, and son of an English merchant who owned a large trading concern on the coast, had enjoyed a superior English education; was employed in a respectable capacity in the colony, in 1824, and died of a rapid phthisis pulmonalis, July 20th, 1825. The interest he took in the foundation of the Colony, entitles his memory to the grateful recollection of its friends.

of his tone, or by means of arguments drawn from the justice of his procedure, or prospective advantages to be expected from the settlement, entirely failed to conciliate their friendship, or alter their settled purpose to expel the colonists from their country.

But in that spirit of duplicity which has marked the policy of too many who claim to be their superiors, the Chiefs of the tribe, in a few days, held out an offer of accommodation with the most imposing appearances of sincerity and reason. The ferment seemed in a great measure allayed; and the agent was so far deluded by the stratagem, as to render it in the first instance entirely successful. Yielding to an invitation to meet the country authorities in a friendly conference, at king Peter's town, he imprudently put his person in their power, and found himself a prisoner. Having been detained several days, Dr. Ayres consented, as the condition of his freedom, to re-accept the remnant of the goods which had been advanced the month preceding, in part payment for the lands; but contrived to evade their injunction for the immediate removal of the people from the country, by alleging the want of *vessels* for the purpose.

The individuals at this time on Perseverance Island did not amount to twenty. The island itself being a mere artificial formation, and always becalmed by the high land of the Cape which towers above it in the direction of the ocean, soon proved itself to be a most insalubrious situation. The only shelter it afforded to the people and stores was to be found under the decayed thatch of half a dozen diminutive huts, constructed after the native manner of building; and the Island was entirely destitute of fresh water and firewood. All the settlers had left Sierra Leone in a good state of health. But the badness of the air, the want of properly ventilated houses, and sufficient shelter, with other circumstances of their new situation, soon began to prey upon their strength, and caused several cases of intermittent fever; from a course of which most of the company had been but a very few months recovered.

Happily, a secret, ex-parte arrangement was, at this critical period, settled with king George, who resided on the Cape, and claimed a sort of jurisdiction over the northern district of the peninsula of Montserado; in virtue of which the settlers were permitted to pass across the river, and commence the laborious task of clearing away the heavy forest which covered the site of their in-

tended town.—It may illustrate a trait of the African character, to observe that the consideration which moved this Chief to accord to the settlers a privilege which has manifestly led to their permanent establishment at Montserado, and the translation of the country to new masters, was the compliment of half a dozen gallons of rum, and about an equal amount in African trade-cloth, and tobacco.

Every motive which interest, increasing sufferings, and even the love of life, could supply, at this moment, animated the exertions of this little band. Their Agent had left them to the temporary superintendence of one of their own number,* under whose counsel and example the preparation of their new habitations advanced so rapidly, as in a very few weeks, to present the rudiments of 22 dwellings, ranged in an orderly manner, on the principal street of their settlement.

But at this interesting period, when hope and success began to re-assert in the brightened sphere of their fortunes a decided ascendant, one of those unforeseen circumstances which so often entirely frustrate the best concerted schemes of human prudence, and warn mankind of the supremacy of a divine Providence, suddenly terminated the pleasing anticipations of the settlers in bitter disappointment, and kindled around them the flame of war.

A small vessel, prize to an English cruiser, bound to Sierra Leone with about 30 liberated Africans, put into the roads for a supply of water, and had the misfortune to part her cable and come ashore, within a short distance of Perseverance Island. In this state she was, in a few hours, beat to fragments by the action of a heavy surf.—The natives pretend to a prescriptive right which interest never fails to enforce in its utmost extent, to seize and appropriate the wrecks and cargoes of vessels stranded under whatever circumstances, on their coast. The English schooner having drifted upon the main land about one mile from the extremity of the Cape, and a small distance below George's town, was immediately claimed as his property. His people rushed to the beach with their arms, to sustain this claim; and attempting to board the wreck, were fired upon by the prize master and compelled to desist. In the mean time the aid of the settlers was sent for; which, from an opinion of the extreme danger of their English visitants,

*Frederick James, who now holds in the municipal government of the Colony, a situation of the very first respectability.

they immediately afforded. A boat was instantly manned, and despatched to their relief; and a brass field piece stationed on the Island, brought to bear upon the assailants. The latter then hastily retired to their town, which was, like most African hamlets, closely environed by an ancient growth of trees, with the loss of two of their number killed and several disabled. The English officer, his crew and the Africans, were brought off in safety; but suffered the total loss of their vessel, with most of the stores and other property on board of her.

But owing to some very culpable neglect on the part of the persons who served the field piece on this occasion, the fire was communicated from the fusee, to the thatch roof of the store-house containing the provisions, arms, ammunition, merchandise, and other public property of the Colony. The powder, a few casks of provisions, and a scanty supply of other stores, were providentially rescued, through the timely exertions of the people. But property amounting to near three thousand dollars, assorted for the settlement, and all of the first necessity, was consumed!

The country people disappointed of the valuable tempting booty, which, in imagination they had appropriated by anticipation, manifestly, in consequence of the presence and interference of the settlers, became as will be readily supposed, exasperated against them to the highest pitch of hostility. The sight of their dead and wounded countrymen completed the measure of their irritation; and fiercely excited in their minds a savage thirst of vengeance. Nothing but the dread of opposing the great guns of the Islanders could, at this moment, have restrained them from opening upon them volleys of musketry, from the opposite bank of the river; which, had it been continued for any length of time, could scarcely have failed to prove in a high degree destructive. But seldom venturing near enough to give the least precision to their fire, they were always sure, on delivering it, to retire with the utmost precipitation to the deepest part of the forest, before they could collect sufficient assurance to reload their pieces: and a single discharge of a four or six pounder before they had evaded the range of its shot, seldom failed to put an end to their insolence for the remainder of the day.

But in this mockery of ordinary warfare, it is to be observed, that no combination of the tribes—not even an union of the forces of the smallest single tribe of the country, had taken place.

King George's warriors, scarcely numbering 20 men, were the only individuals who had presumed to go to the length of open hostilities. And in this procedure they could justify themselves to the country authorities only on the ground of self-defence. A war, among the tribes of this country, to be legal, must have been resolved upon in a general assembly of their chiefs; unless deliberation and delay are precluded, as in the present case, by an apparent necessity of self protection. Such an assembly not having been at this time convoked, the actual danger to which the settlers were exposed, was wholly confined to the south, or king George's side of the Montserado river. But as the settlers were obliged to derive their whole supply of fresh water from this bank—particularly as the site of the town which they had eagerly designated for their future residence, and made some progress in preparing, occupied the height overlooking their enemy's town—they were subjected to various inconveniences, and obliged entirely to discontinue their principal work. The frames of their unfinished dwellings were thrown down; and several petty insults of a like nature inflicted upon them, which they had no power to prevent. But the wakeful activity of their savage enemy soon caused them to deplore a more melancholy proof of his power to injure them.

A boat, strongly manned and armed, had proceeded to the distance of nearly three miles above the Island, on the morning of the 27th of March, for a supply of water. It was discovered, half an hour afterwards, that King George's warriors had also passed up the river by land, evidently with the intention of attacking the boat's crew. A second boat was then despatched to overtake, and, in case of necessity, support the first. Several of the English seamen, conducted by their officer, had, with their usual promptitude on such occasions, volunteered their attendance. The bank of the Montserado was at that time entirely covered, the whole distance which the boats had to ascend it, with heavy trees; and in several places, is nearly overhung with precipitous rocks of very broken appearance, and enormous size. The boats had proceeded without any discovery of their enemy to the watering-place—filled their casks and put off from the shore on their return, when the firing commenced. The boats had just entered the upper end of the narrow reach formed by the south line of Bank Island and the main land. As nothing could have been effected by a show of resistance against a concealed enemy, the boats could do little

more than hold the opposite shore as closely as possible, and make the best of their way down the river. The fire was renewed, at all the different angles and projections of the bank which allowed the foe to approach under cover of the rocks and trees, sufficiently near the boat channel of the river. It is to be presumed they suffered nothing in this unequal skirmish; while on board of the boats one colonist* and an English seaman, were mortally wounded—and two other persons slightly injured.

These occurrences could not fail to diffuse a spirit of fervid excitement throughout the Dey tribe. The fatal consequences likely to follow the admission into their country of civilized strangers—strangers whom they had learnt to be entirely adverse to the slave-trade—formed the topic of violent and exaggerated declamation, by nearly all whose interest, fears, or prejudices were concerned in their expulsion. Old King Peter, the venerable patriarch of the nation, was capitally impeached and brought to trial on a charge of betraying the interests of his subjects by selling their country. The accusation was substantiated; and it was for some time doubtful whether the punishment annexed by the laws and usages of all nations, to high treason, would not be carried into execution against a king to whom they had been accustomed to render obedience for more than thirty years.

(To be Continued.)

Extracts from Correspondents.

We rejoice to believe that truth is assuming in this age, an extraordinary dominion over the human mind. Unprecedented success appears to attend its promulgation, and the Almighty himself makes it most signally the instrument of his operations. All the events of the day seem to contribute to that revolution in opinions which is to elevate CHRISTIANITY to the throne of the world. Her triumph is as certain as the march of time. She will change not individual character only, but political institutions, nor reign more in private circles, than in the affairs of empires. She will tame

* Wiley Jones, from Petersburg, Va. who expired on the 18th of April.

the lion, and make the wilderness a garden of beauty. Her glance shall be death to injustice, her smile hope to the injured and life to the dead; the solitary place shall be glad at her coming, the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. All nations shall follow in her train: ransomed Ethiopia shall appear there, not rude in manners and dark in soul, but clad in righteousness, lofty in her purposes of duty, and joyful with immortal hopes—of all the kingdoms of the world shall it be said “wisdom and knowledge are the stability of their times and strength of salvation.”

To those who feel an interest in the plans of our institution, the intelligence not only from Africa but from various parts of our own country, must afford high gratification. It proves that a spirit of compassion has gone abroad for the children of that continent, with an energy not to be impeded and not to be broken. We select the following passages from letters of recent date:—

From a Gentleman in Missouri, St. Louis. Feb. 18th, 1826.

“Enclosed you have the constitution of the St. Louis Auxiliary Colonization Society, which I transmit to you by order of the Board of Managers, together with the names of its present officers. This auxiliary was organized about a year since; but owing to the dearth of information in regard to the general Society, its objects, efforts and success, very little exertion has been made. I am persuaded, however, that all that is necessary to produce a proper degree of attention to this important subject in this part of the country, is *information*. People must be made acquainted with the Colonization Society, the history of its exertions, the results already experienced, and the more distant consequences of its operations as regards our country and the blacks, so unfortunately situated amongst us, before they will contribute, from their heart and from their purse, to its advancement. Its grandeur, and the extent of its philanthropy, can be seen only through a distant perspective.

This Society (the St. Louis Auxiliary) will endeavor to circulate throughout this section of the country, such information as will be proper and useful as to the objects and operations of the Colonization Society; and will make such remittances from time to time as circumstances permit.”

From a Gentleman in King William County, Virginia.

April 1st, 1826.

“In conclusion I would say, that my attachment to the cause of the Colonization Society remains not only undiminished, but is increased by every review of the important objects proposed to be attained through its instrumentality. My circumstances in life, however, and the avocations in which I am engaged, forbid my devoting as much time to the important concerns of this Society, as I could wish. With the assistance of God, I am determined to spend my whole life in endeavouring in some way or other to promote the objects of this most benevolent institution. I recognise in it the glorious attempt, on the part of the present generation, to wipe from the face of our political institutions one of its foulest stains, and to acquit ourselves of the charge of suffering one of the greatest evils under which we labour, to remain without an effort on our part to get clear of it, an evil of high moral turpitude, which paralyzes the physical energies of our country, and will continue to do it in an increased degree.”

From a Gentleman in Petersburg, Va. April 22, 1826.

“The friends of Africa are increasing in this region—public opinion is more and more awake to the subject. Time is only wanting to give birth to the great events yet in embryo. Your cause is the cause of God. Heaven will be propitious to your plans and operations. You shall accomplish even more than your most sanguine anticipations will allow you to conceive.”

From a Gentleman in Vermont. April 29, 1826.

“The sailing of the Vine was an excellent thing for your cause in New-England. If those who went in her should do well for themselves and the Colony, more might be fitted out here with very little expense to you. I know some farmers in Vermont, who were really *anxious* to send some supplies to Boston for the Vine and the Colony, but could find no opportunity.”

From a Gentleman in Massachusetts. April 19, 1826.

“The late, and more frequent emancipations in the middle and southern states, is producing a very happy influence on the public mind, generally in this part of the country. They give a spring to

public sentiment, and they teach this great lesson, which we northerners are beginning to understand—that many slave holders retain their slaves in bondage—not because they love slavery; but because they cannot better the condition of their slaves by emancipating them. The flourishing state of your Colony at Liberia, affords to such, an opportunity to perform an act, which they have long desired, and to put their servants, them and their posterity, on a new footing for immortality. The south and the north, I am fully persuaded, after having recently travelled thro' nearly all the states of this happy Union, are approaching every day towards the same views in reference to this whole subject of our African population, both the bond and the free. And I cannot but look on your Society, not only as affording a retreat on the coast of Africa, for a few thousands of free blacks and liberated slaves; but as an instrument of a much nobler achievement. The influence of your Society on public sentiment, is the *main thing*, and though in transporting colonists to Liberia, it must, in my opinion, be small in comparison with even the annual increase of the black population; yet even here you do not lose what you actually do, by being unable to do more. If, therefore, any friend of the Society does not see all that *direct* and immediate good he had anticipated as resulting from his efforts, he may still have the consolation of believing, that his efforts have been greatly useful, and, it may be, that he does a much greater good than he himself had ever dared to hope.”

From a Member of the Society of Friends in North Carolina.

May 14, 1826.

“If I had leisure, I could write a pretty full account of my tour through the eastern counties of this state. ———— and myself set out to visit the people of colour under the care of the Society of Friends, and to convince them of the falsity and absurdity of those alarming tales with which their ignorant minds were filled. We found many in the full opinion that Sampson (the visiter from Liberia) had actually sold those that sailed in the Indian Chief, and they gave in detail the circumstances and manner of the sale. We, however, believe that about 200 would sail for Liberia in the fall, but our funds are too limited to move so fast. We found a hundred who wish to go to Hayti, and have agreed upon a passage for them. We have sent upwards of one hundred

to the west this spring, but are in hopes they will ultimately go down the Mississippi and cross the ocean, especially if the general government undertakes the business of colonizing, which I have long wished, and which seems to be desired by all. I repeat it, BY ALL; and I have talk'd with hundreds on the subject.

A law for hiring out free persons of colour, came near being passed during the last session of our legislature, and apprehending that it will pass the next, we are in a grievous situation. Our negroes would go if we had the means to send them. Unfortunately they are mostly women and children, some men and boys having heretofore gone to free States, so that our women have slave husbands—some wish their wives to go and some will be given up. We have been careful to act discreetly in these cases to the best of our knowledge."

From a Gentleman in Virginia. May 20, 1826.

"I think that our Society is gaining ground all over the United States—you saw last winter that our general assembly is not unfriendly to our institution. I had conversation at that time with many members of the legislature, and found very few unfriendly to the Society. It is only some apprehension concerning *State rights* which has ever rendered the Colonization Society unpopular in any part of Virginia. I can say that all the enlightened and benevolent-hearted men who have come within the compass of my observation, are friendly to the Society; the pious are for us to a man—the ministers of all religious denominations are warmly engaged in the cause. I hope the managers have requested the clergy throughout the United States, to preach and take up subscriptions on the fourth of July."

From a Gentleman in Vermont. May 16, 1826.

"I am now happy to inform you, that professor Adams writes, that he has 620 volumes ready for Liberia, more than 500 of which, are given by the students of Dartmouth college. I am just now sending to most of the other New-England colleges for books.

The death of our dear Sessions, is a distressing event. But in all such calamities the good hand of God is concerned, and all will be overruled for good. Black men must be prepared as soon as possible, for all public as well as private services. I hope we

shall live to see an African college in Liberia, and its presidential chair filled by an African, born to rule and teach."

From a Gentleman in Maryland. May 22, 1826.

"Our 'great and holy cause', as you justly observe, is decidedly making progress. It wins its way alike through the reason and the heart. The speculative and the practical, the religious and the philosophical, all find it congenial to their tempers and pursuits. When we look back upon its rapid growth, we have no right to complain of the present, nor to despair of the future. To my personal knowledge the ideas of gradual emancipation, and removal and colonization in Africa, are daily gaining ground throughout all orders of society in this place, especially among the youthful.—They are spreading *silently* to be sure; but the more effectually for that; for this proves the depth of the feeling and the permanence of conviction. Every great change has been effected, and every noble enterprize accomplished in that manner. Before a distant day the scheme will burst forth in its strength, like the ice of our rivers breaking up in the spring."

From a Gentleman in Connecticut. April, 1826.

"The appearance of the Repository is greatly improved; and I regard that as a proof that it supports itself. The work must be interesting to all who read it. Your cause generally seems to be gaining ground rapidly."

From a Lady in Hartford, Connecticut. April, 1826.

"The idea of educating a young man of colour as a physician for the Colony, has been suggested to some who are interested in the plans of the Colonization Society, in this place. A young physician here of excellent character and who is in good practice, has offered to instruct a young man, and furnish him with the requisite books. He can be boarded in my family and clothed by "a Society for benefiting Africans" in my school.

A suitable individual has been selected from Boston. He is about 17, and it is believed, that with his present acquirements, he may obtain the necessary knowledge of botany, chemistry, medicine and surgery, in the course of four or five years."

From Liberia.

By the Indian Chief, which arrived at Norfolk on the 29th of May, we have received communications from the African Colony, up to the 23d of April. The general interests of the establishment appear to be making sure advances, and the degree and sphere of its influence over the native tribes, is becoming greatly enlarged. In consequence of piractical depredations committed by certain French and Spanish slave-traders, in the neighbourhood of the Colony, it was deemed necessary by the Colonial Agent, to vindicate the rights of the settlement, and by the destruction of four slave factories, has he rescued from captivity, one hundred and fifty-four persons, "and as it is believed" terminated the slave-trade forever on that part of the coast. In the several enterprizes undertaken for the accomplishment of these purposes, the Colonial militia evinced great promptness, and the determination and ability of the Colonial Agent, were eminently conspicuous.

The line of coast from Sierra Leone to Cape Mount, is now under British protection; and from Cape Mount to Trade Town, a distance of 120 miles, the slave-trade cannot be prosecuted with the least hope of success. Many of the tribes are really disposed to abandon it, and all perceive the hazard with which in future it must be attended.

But it becomes the duty of the Board to acknowledge the chastisements as well as the mercies of Heaven. The emigrants from New-England, have suffered severely from the change of climate, and in the deaths of the Rev. Horace Sessions, and Mr. Charles L. Force, the African cause has lost two of its faithful and devoted friends. The exertions of the former gentleman, contributed in a great measure to the outfit of the New-England expedition, and his return was anticipated with high hopes of good for the Institution to which he had so zealously and successfully devoted his efforts; while the labours of the latter were believed to promise much to the literary and moral interests of the Colony. But the Almighty has thought proper to remove them, and to his will we must submissively bow. His designs are too deep for our understandings, and his providences too dark for the examination of mortals. His favours demand our gratitude, and his judgments our resignation. The revelations of a future day will show the wisdom and benevolence of both.

The Rev. Calvin Holton, had so far recovered from his attack of fever as to engage in his ministerial duties.

In conclusion, we take the liberty to state, that the Colony at Liberia, considering its age, means, and population, enjoys a degree of prosperity, of which perhaps no similar establishment furnishes an example in the history of the world.

A few Words to the Churches.

We are aware, christian friends, that a story often loses interest by repetition; that an advocate even of the best cause may be indiscreetly warm in its favour, and that he who would convince the doubtful or arouse the insensible, must temper ardour of feeling with sobriety of judgment. But there is an aversion in our nature to certain great principles of duty, which can be conquered only by frequently exhibiting their authority to the intellect and conscience. There is an indifference to the claims, and the sufferings of others, which, though not to be removed by a transient thought, may yield to considerate attention. The execution of the design of the American Colonization Society, depends we know, upon popular opinion, and can never be realized until a deep conviction of its importance, and a resolute purpose to assist it, shall prevail in the public mind. Nor is this a subject to be thoroughly understood and justly appreciated without deliberate reflection. It must be again and again held up before the eyes of the community. It must be shown in all its aspects of interest. It must be unfolded in all its momentous relations to the welfare, both of this country and Africa. It is not upon the strength of our Institution that we rely for the consummation of this work, but upon the power of the Nation, and from what but popular sentiment is this power to receive impulse and direction. Through the churches may this cause be most appropriately and extensively offered to the consideration of the American people. And permit us to say, ministers and members of these churches, are you not now called to the discharge of a high and solemn duty to your country, the Africans and to God? In a few days you will commemorate the anniversary of our national independence. O! amid the joyous remembrances of that jubilee, when you think of your own deliver-

ance and defence by the EVERLASTING ARM, how our nation even in its infancy reposes upon an eminence above all nations; how there opens before her a wide and brightning prospect of knowledge, religion and glory, is it not becoming that you lay your offerings at the feet of him who is the Donor of all our blessings, that for his sake, you evince kindness to the ignorant for whom He feels compassion; that you thus show your fellowship with Him upon whom dwelt the spirit of the Lord, that he might preach glad tidings to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. Will not our oblations prove vain and our incense an abomination, unless we remember the stranger within our gates and satisfy the afflicted soul? We plead for degraded and miserable men within our own territory, for uncounted wretched tribes claiming redress from christians for injuries without parallel, for the interests and honor of our country, for the reputation and influence of the kingdom of Christ. What inestimable good might result from the concurrence of all denominations of christians in the proposed plan for *taking up collections for our institution on the fourth of July, or on the Sabbath immediately preceding or succeeding that day?*

The consciousness of having done a work so noble, would be a rich reward; while we might with reason expect that Heaven would render it the ministration of prosperity to our own country, of hope and salvation to Africa.

Intelligence.

France.—In the French Chamber of Deputies, March 25th, petitions were presented from Paris, and from Havre, for a more effectual prohibition of the slave trade. A member stated that more than 30 vessels have been fitted out for this trade from Nantz within a year; and that French slave vessels, when pursued, threw their slaves overboard!

Mr. Secretary Canning, in a late debate in the House of Commons, took occasion to compliment the French Government, on the disposition it had lately manifested to put down the slave trade, and said he had the satisfaction to inform the house, that

“an order had been sent by the Spanish Government to Cuba which (should it be executed) would effectually put down the slave trade in that quarter.”

Instruction of Slaves—Societies have been formed in several of the West India islands for the religious instruction of the blacks, with the countenance of the civil and ecclesiastical authorities. The report of the Society in the island of Nevis, made on the 13th of August last, states that a Sunday school had been established in each of the four county parishes, wherein 682 slaves and 24 free persons were receiving instruction, and that a Sunday and daily school had been established at Charlestown, in the former of which 80 slaves were taught, and in the latter there were 105 free and slave pupils. A master was employed in each of these schools, and in the town school there was also a mistress. The salaries paid were from 20*l.* to 25*l.* each.—*Phil. Reg.*

Liberia Herald.

We have perused, with no slight emotion, a copy of the “*Liberia Herald*,” which was noticed in an article in our last. A newspaper from Africa! An Americo-African newspaper! We confess that we never examined any other newspaper with as much interest as we did this little sheet. It realized to us, more than any thing else could do, at so great a distance, the growth, the stability, and the prospects, of the African Colony; and we can imagine the pleasure which all the friends of that great and beneficent scheme must feel at this interesting evidence of the progressive success of their unwavering efforts. Let them but persevere, and final and complete success will crown their exertions. Public opinion will become universal in its favour, and public opinion thus united, will give an impulse to the public counsels favorable to the Colony.

In looking over the Monrovia paper, it was interesting to observe the various notices of business, parades, marriages, &c. as though the print was issued in the midst of an old community. For the amusement of our readers, we subjoin the following notices, copied from the first number of the paper:

“Organized, on the 15th instant, the second Trading Company of Liberia, on the basis of uniform prices and equitable trade, both with the different

tribes and with foreign nations. Any traffic in human blood or spirituous liquors with the natives, is a violation of the Constitution, and incurs heavy penalties."

"*Attention!*—The Independent Volunteers will parade on the 22d inst. at 9 o'clock, A. M. equipped according to law, with ten blank cartridges, in honor of the birth of Washington, the American hero.

By order of the Captain,

JAMES C. BARBOUR.

WM. W. STEWART, Orderly Sergeant."

"*Wanted immediately.*—The following articles, viz. boards, plank, shingles, window glass, nails, crockery, all kinds of hardware, household furniture, cutlery, tobacco, pipes, pound beads, American cottons, ginghams, calicoes, shoes, hose, cambrics, muslins, linens, buttons, thread, combs, butter, lard, and hams. In exchange for which, may be had—camwood, ivory, turtle shell, gold dust, deer, leopard, and tiger skins; rice, fowl, fish; goats, sheep, and fruits."

"*Married*, on the evening of the 14th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Sessions, Mr. Richard Sears, to Miss Rosanna Mason Fitch. All recently from America."

"*Drowned*, at Cape Mount, on the 7th ult. Mr. Coy Page, formerly of Richmond City, Virginia."

Over Mr. ASHMUN, the Colonial Agent, for its own wise purposes, Providence seems to have extended a special protection. As far as we have information, he has exceedingly well discharged every duty which the orders of the Board of Managers, or the emergency of occasion, has devolved upon him.—*Nat. Int.*

Fourth of July.

"The following very judicious remarks have just appeared under the editorial head in the Richmond Family Visitor."

"*What shall we render unto the Lord in return for his mercies?*"

"The anniversary of our independence is approaching. Festivities are preparing to commemorate the grand epoch of our national existence. All hearts assume the livery of joy, and the voice of pleasure is heard through our land. In the midst of this tumultuous excitement there are two considerations that press imperiously upon all the reflecting minds within our state. The one is, that among the numerous sacrifices offered at the shrine of pleasure, there is but little of that pure incense of the heart which alone is acceptable to the Author of our blessings: The other, that Virginia is not rising in

the national scale in proportion to her intellectual advantages. These melancholy convictions must cast a shade over the mind that admits them, even in the full career of thoughtless mirth. When the festive cup is quaffed with mild rejoicings, and reason totters under its customary libations, who can say that there is room in any heart for the calm and holy feeling of devotional thanksgiving? And yet, many of those who gather around the genial board and feast to satiety, will admit, in moments of sober reflection, that their homage is not offered where alone it is due. Who gave to America the blessing of independence? who went forth with her undisciplined armies, and bore the trophies of victory from the veteran warriors of Britain? Who imbued the hearts of her people with patriotic valour; and gave to her unpractised legislators the wisdom of sages? There are few who will impute the wonders of that period, to aught but the wonder-working principle of divine Power. There are many who will be ready to exclaim "Not unto us, not unto us! but unto thee, O Lord, be the honour and glory given!" Then let us give Him the glory, not in licentious revelings, not in sensual enjoyments! But in His own Temple and in His own appointed manner, let the praise and honour be ascribed to Him who gave us the blessings we enjoy. There is another consideration that demands our notice. This is a time of preparation. The customs of our state have sanctioned an almost universal profusion of expense, and appropriation of surplus money to gaudies and luxuries for the season. Nay! there are no doubt sacrifices made of better and more useful things, to enable individuals to bear a part in the customary pageant. All this is not really thought necessary. It has rather become habitual through want of thought. Many things are done in conformity with general practice, which a little reflection would cause to be left undone. There is at this time an imperious demand for the surplus money of our country in behalf of benevolent and charitable institutions. Our own ignorant poor need instruction. Untutored heathen require the Gospel. And above all, Ethiopia stretches out her hands over our heaven-rescued land, and claims from us a portion of those blessings which we receive from the God of nations. What shall we reply to this supplication? shall we say, we cannot give all, therefore we will give nothing? We cannot hope to finish so great a work, therefore we will not begin it? Or shall we urge that our finite minds perceive errors in a plan that bears the evident stamp of infinite Wisdom? Perhaps another plea might be brought forward in extenuation of our backwardness in this work of mercy. May not our national misfortune have blunted our sympathies, so that we can behold human misery every day without desiring to alleviate it? Who does not perceive that this is one of the tendencies of that evil which we wish to prepare a way for removing; and who can help attributing the opposition made to the humane scheme of colonizing free people of colour to this humiliating cause? But if we quietly endure circumstances so repugnant to humanity as the attendant consequences of slavery; what effect will the accumulated force of example and soul enslaving habit, have upon our posterity? Add to these powerful preventives of human improvement, the recorded arguments of prejudice and misdirected talent,

which have been hurled against the infant scheme of Colonization, and where will our descendants of another century rank in the fluctuating scale of national prosperity? But this is the cause of humanity, and it must interest unperverted minds. It is the cause of God! and it must prevail! Let its opposers beware then of nerving their sinews to this strife, lest haply they should be found to war against the Eternal. Let timid, startled minds rest from their fears. If the Almighty arm is not with the friends of Colonization, they can no more accomplish their object, than the first little band of hardy adventurers, who encountered unnumbered perils on our shores, could have planted a colony, destined to extend its dominions from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. The enemies of this cause are ingenious in conjuring up chimeras, and devising prophetic terrors to deter persons from engaging in a work of mercy. Its friends however might have a fuller scope for imagination, were they to predict the probable consequences of a passive submission to this evil. But can we think that these people will like us less for considering them as entitled to the mercies of our common father? No! they are human beings! and not so viper-like in their propensities, as to wish to sting the bosoms that are teeming with plans for meliorating the condition of their race. The friends of Colonization must endure with patience the mistaken opposition of others, and persevere in their own designs with courageous firmness; trusting in all things, to divine light and strength. But to return to the preparations for our national festivals. Suppose some few of those who are accustomed to contribute to the dissipation of that day, were to set a laudable example, and give another destination to the sum so appropriated? Would not some hands, about to add their contribution to the hoards of luxury, falter over the prostituted coin, if the cry of poor afflicted Africa was heard? And it will be heard, by all who do not selfishly close their hearts to its appeal! It will be sounded from the pulpit over our native state, on the anniversary of our deliverance from bondage! It will mingle with the claims of our acknowledged sovereign, who will on that day prove whether the gratitude of his people is an active principle, or a cold customary profession. There are no doubt females in our country who look forward with pleasurable anticipations to the approaching celebration. Their preparations are now making; they have calculated the cost of the gala dress, and imagined its tasteful decorations. Could not one flower or ribbon, or any other trapping, be omitted, for the sake of reserving a trifle for the cause of humanity! Let them reflect for a moment and determine which sound will be most pleasant to their ears, the voice of flattery and adulation in this world, or the soul thrilling accents of the Eternal Judge, when he commends his people for their works of charity. "In as much as you did it to the least of these, you did it unto me!" then, they will be qualified to decide, between the false, fleeting, dangerous pleasures of dissipation, and the sweet and holy feeling of enjoyment arising from the consciousness of having divine grace within the heart."

We perceive through the public journals, a general disposition to favor the proposed plan of making collections for the Coloniza-

tion Society, on the fourth of July, or on the Sabbath which immediately precedes or succeeds that day. The Baptist General Convention, we are glad to see, has renewed its recommendation of this measure the present year, and also the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church. The christian publications of the day, almost unanimously, give it their sanction; and we cannot but hope, the occasion will prove, that present appearances have their origin in no evanescent feeling, but in settled convictions of duty.

Stanzas.

Light of the world arise! arise!
On Africa thy glories shed;
Fetter'd, in darkness deep she lies
With weeping eye, and drooping head.

Through gloomy wilds which shade her shore,
The blood-stain'd murderer seeks his prey;
Those shrieks,—that light—'tis seen no more,
The victims where, O where are they?

Why heed their doom? for hope can give
To death e'en beauty's softest light;
It conquers pain, its raptures live,
When fades whate'er of earth is bright.

But what avails if yet unknown,
Hope's kindling flame and living power?
Come they not from the eternal Throne?
Cheer they the sinner's dying hour?

Light of the world arise! arise!
Millions in tears await the day;
Shine cloudless, forth, O cheer our eyes,
And banish sin and grief away.

N. B. The collections which may be taken up for the Colonization Society, on the fourth of July, or on some Sunday near to it, will, we hope, be *early* transmitted to Richard Smith, Esq. of this city, Treasurer of the Institution.